

The Governor's Interagency Council on Veterans

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP MEETING

Conference Call Meeting Minutes

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME BY CHAIR AND ICV STAFF

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mike Dear, Chair, welcomed attendees, explained housekeeping rules, and requested that cell phones be placed on silent mode. Mr. Dear requested that all attendees identify themselves prior to speaking and informed everyone that the meeting is being recorded. Mr. Dear called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

ACTION: Mr. Dear conducted roll call and the following are those in attendance:

Working Group Attendees

Jerlena Griffin-Desta
Don Merrill
Bucky Peterson
John Spangler
Brent Theobald
Jeff Weston
Lisa Douglas
Pamela Martin
Marcy Brightwell
Mike Dear
Justin Smith

Public Attendees

Sherry Jerrigon
Denise Brandt
Rick Henager
Elizabeth Rich

2. DISCUSS INFORMATIONAL PACKET

DISCUSSION: The following informational packet was reviewed and discussed which includes the meeting agenda, a Summary of the ICV Conference, and the 211 San Diego Provider's Application.

HANDOUT 1: Summary of the ICV Conference

DISCUSSION: This summary was developed by Eric Worthen; it is not the same summary as the CRB, State Library. Mr. Worthen and Pam Martin informed the working group that the front part of the summary from the State Library is more extensive but similar to this meeting packet handout but in addition it will include a comprehensive overview of each working group with appendices. (*The goals of this summary were discussed further under: 3. DISCUSS PRIORITIES OF EDUCATION WORKING GROUP.*)

ACTION: None.

HANDOUT 2: 2-1-1 San Diego Providers Application

DISCUSSION: Mr. Worthen is working on developing a new, comprehensive matrix of veteran services utilizing 211 San Diego as an example. Mr. Worthen explained how he would like to use this method in effort of developing a resource for student veterans to utilize as a tool to evaluate school services. Students will be able compare schools that assist them with the decision process for enrollment. Mr. Dear then asked Mr. Worthen if it's possible for the working group to share the list with all higher education campuses throughout California, once it is developed, utilizing it as an informational resource guide that includes names of the buildings for veteran students, veteran services each campus provides, veteran representative/counselors contact information, and office hours/schedules for veteran representative/counselors. Mr. Worthen stated once the list is finalized, it would be available to share with the group, then ICV will request that CA, Dept of Veteran Affairs post it on the CalVet website, and be available for posting on higher education websites.

Brent Theobald stated that less-is-more, there should only be one contact per campus on the list because it could inundate the veterans with too much information. He also requested that due to all the discussions of some for-profit universities and for those universities who are not serving the veterans well, there should be some type of process to be able to get on the list, which will protect the integrity of the list and the universities who have integrity standards for veteran success.

ACTION: Mr. Worthen & Mr. Dear concurred with Mr. Theobald. Mr. Worthen will see if ICV can verify the status of universities through Linsey Wathen with CalVet and her Title 38 specialists. All agreed that the annual list is a good place to start but ICV will need to set up procedures to ensure the data is updated.

3. DISCUSS PRIORITIES OF EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dear led the discussion to prioritize goals of the Education Working Group as determined at previous meetings and at the ICV Conference.

HANDOUT 1: Summary of the ICV Conference

ACTION: On April 30, 2012 the ICV Education Working Group came into agreement with the following changes to their goals and then prioritized those goals, as follows:

1. Create a navigational tool to assist veterans on how to choose a program and how to successfully complete their goals, combining peer-to-peer support, veteran academic counseling, and mentorship;
2. Establish effective outreach best practices to educate soon-to-be veterans on VA education benefits such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Identify changes needed to the TAP program, veteran boot camp, and other similar re-entry programs that can help in those efforts;
3. Identify best practices of effective Veterans Resource Centers and measure their performance;
4. Work in partnership with state departments and private companies in developing a plan, which allows veteran students to receive transferable credit for acquired skills/training received while on active duty and apply them towards college credit, apprenticeship certification, or vocational training certificate;
5. Develop a web portal for veterans that will serve as a go-to point for information on all three public higher education and independent non-profit systems. This web portal will also include information regarding access to higher educational institutions campus veteran centers.

4. DISCUSS ACTION PLAN OF EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dear led the discussion regarding the action plan for the Education Working Group.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Mr. Dear recommended that the Education Working Group add a sub-committee for the action plan. The education sub-committee will work on the layout of the action plan and present a draft to the rest of the group for feedback upon completion. Mr. Dear proposed to assign Brent Theobald, Jeff Weston, Jerlena Griffin-Desta, Lisa Douglas, and Himself as members of the education sub-committee. Brent Theobald, Jeff Weston, Jerlena Griffin-Desta, Lisa Douglas, and Mike Dear all agreed to work on the action plan as sub-committee members.

Don Merrill requested to meet with Mr. Dear to discuss additional ways of increasing the vocational component. Mr. Worthen suggested that Mr. Dear and Mr. Merrill work on the vocational component separately. Mr. Dear and Mr. Merrill agreed and will schedule a meeting.

Marcey Brightwell stated she would like to assist with the “transferable credit and skills component”.

Mr. Worthen asked Mr. Merrill if it is possible to develop a uniform policy that could go to professional boards or licensing and certification boards on obtaining credit for veteran’s military skills/training or if this is even an issue the working group should include in the goals. Mr. Merrill responded that they rely on vocational agencies to determine this in either the adult education or community colleges and questioned why the working group isn’t including adult education in this discussion.

Mr. Dear responded that according to community college student veteran services staff in the field, the individual student’s goal, Post 9/11 GI Bill funding, and other financial aid could be affected if a uniform policy was mandated. Mr. Dear explained how the veteran counselors on campus evaluate each student separately to ensure the classes on their transcripts won’t harm them and doesn’t think it would be wise to standardize the process, he also stated that there is no one size fits all, and it could do more harm than good. Mr. Weston added that at the community college level, even though an institution has a recommendation, each institution has the authority to make the final decision, and they are not bound to the ACE guidelines. Ms. Griffin-Desta concurred with Mr. Dear.

ACTION: Mr. Worthen stated according to the meeting discussion, based on the students’ best interest, the working group shouldn’t focus on developing a uniform policy. The working group members concurred.

5. FOLLOW-UP ON PREVIOUS TASKS/QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dear requested the members talk about any comments or questions from previous meetings or new business they had.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Mr. Dear informed the working group that Mr. Worthen has requested a report regarding the working group’s action plan which will address the education goals, or if you already addressed them – how did you address them, or give an example of best practices to achieve the goal(s), with a deadline of mid July 2012.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dear requested comments from the public on agenda items.

STATUS: None.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

DISCUSSION: The Education Working Group members discussed future meeting dates.

HANDOUT 3: 2012 ICV Calendar Year at a Glance

Mr. Dear requested that the working group set a schedule to meet every other week to work on the report and if there aren't any updates that warrant a meeting the working group can cancel that week's meeting. Any meetings cancelations will come from either Mr. Dear or ICV staff, Lisa Pulido.

Ms. Griffin-Desta recommended using Doodle as a method to calendar the Education Work Group meetings.

ACTION: Ms. Pulido, ICV staff will research Doodle calendar and present the information to the working group. Mr. Dear would like to hold two meetings in May and two meetings in July in effort to meet the report deadline by Mr. Worthen.

8. ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dear called for final public comment and then adjourned the April 30, 2012, meeting.

ACTION: The ICV Education Working Group meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Pulido, ICV staff

Minutes approved by: Mike Dear, Chair of ICV Education Working Group on May 3, 2012